



## Peter Gibson returns

President Jeff welcomed 31 members, two honorary members and one guest, our speaker, former Darlington MP Peter Gibson.

The “Thought for Today” was delivered by SVP Jane Bradshaw who linked the RI theme for August, Maternal & Child Health, with an appreciation for Mercy Ships of which she is a national ambassador. She reminded us of the work they achieve in bringing surgery and medical care to people around the world. Thank you Jane

The President reported on what had been a very busy week including the Vintage Car Rally last Saturday, Club Council on Monday, Club Service on Wednesday and Am-Am Golf on Thursday. He thanked everyone who helped with the Am-Am, especially Mike Hall. 44 teams took part and President Jeff shared an anecdote from a visiting team about their appreciation for “the best” Am-Am they had attended. Appreciation also was given to Sarah Rose for raffle tickets sales which had amassed around £1,700 – very well-done Sarah and everyone who donated prizes. (Pictures overleaf)

Information and notices were shared and are reported elsewhere in the report. Bonus ball winner was, for the second week running, David Selby who didn’t look embarrassed at all by his good fortune. The sound of children enjoying Darlington-by-the-Sea permeated the room and all was well with the world, especially as The President faithfully reported that Walid had no health concerns to bring to the meeting.

Peter Gibson, our former MP, was the guest speaker and started by bringing greetings from the Rotary Club of Northallerton Mowbray and their President Chris of which he is a proud and long-standing member.

Peter gave an interesting and detailed talk about his time as our Member of Parliament and shared some of his experiences over the past four and a half years. He started by describing himself as being unemployed thanks to democracy and is now actively seeking work. It sounded like he could do with some help with his CV and application forms as it has been many years since he has had to apply for work. He seemed quite relaxed about what he would be doing next and that he wasn’t going to rush into anything.

Continued overleaf with pics

## Coming soon

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>:

**Community Service BBQ** at St. Augustine’s Parish Centre, Larchfield Street from 1.00pm – places available due to people unable to attend. Turn up and pay on the day or speak to Ged Wiper

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>:

**Breakfast Meeting** at 7.15 for 7.30am with a **10K Run briefing** by Phil Haymer from Darlington Borough Council

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>:

**Darlington 10K Run.** Ken Wiper is Rotary organiser.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August:

**Defib & CPR Training:** 6pm at the Dolphin Centre – sign up on the Board circulating or contact Gary Blenkinsopp

## NO COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN AUGUST

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October:

**“ Together” Black Tie & Diamonds Dance.** Joint Event with Inner Wheel. Tickets £36 Meal & dancing to Railtown at Hurworth Grange Community Centre. Reserve tickets with Secretary of either club.

Pay: Darlington Rotary Club  
52-30-18 41856384

## Peter Gibson continued



Peter went into great detail about his work as an MP in Westminster. Most impressive was him becoming the Chair of the All-Party Group on Hospices and what he achieved in that role. He was also responsible for successfully changing the legislation governing taxis through a Private Members Bill which was a very interesting process to hear about.

We all know how committed Peter was in his role as local MP and his desire to bring prosperity to the area. He spoke with pride about the investment in the area that he had helped secure including the £23.3m for Town Centre improvement as well as the massive funding for the improvements around the station. He is also, quite rightly, proud of the 750 new jobs created in the Economic Campus and Treasury.

Most of all he was proud of how he had helped others and recounted a story about a cancer sufferer for whom he had managed to change the NHS funding rules to get treatment.

Finally, Peter answered questions and confirmed his desire to be helpful to the new MP Lola McEvoy and that they had held handover meetings. Steve Rose gave the vote of thanks and Peter departed to go and make sandcastles at Darlington-by-the-Sea. Thanks Peter, you've been great.

## AmAm Golf (more pics on Facebook)



## Help Requested

**Charity Choir Concert** in aid of St. Cuthbert's Church renovation on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Featuring Compass Acapella (includes Bill Oldfield) and Tyneside A Capella Choirs

Sue Campbell looking for a few volunteers to help on the night. Ticket info. will be circulated in due course

## Committee Membership

It's that time of year....**every member should be active on at least one Committee** – please sign up on the board circulating or the online version on Google Sheets. Contact the Chair of the Committee if you would like more information.



**And Robin installing a Centenary bench (more next week)**